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Abstract

Tribute to Judge Anne Simonett, from Judge Edward Toussaint, Chief Judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Keywords

tribute, judges, Anne Simonett

Disciplines

Judges

Honorable Edward Toussaint, Jr.[†]

I began searching for some words that would be descriptive of the person that I knew as Anne Simonett. As all of you who know me know, I searched the Bible in finding those words. I read the Proverbs, I read some Psalms, but I finally ran across one of the writings of the Apostle Paul. I was looking for some words that really describe the person that I knew, and I came across, again, I Corinthians 13. Paul writes:

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no records of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves. Love never fails.

I thought in reading that scripture that the person that I knew was embodied in those words. I have never heard of an unkind word said by this person. How else could she listen patiently to people who appeared before her. Not being judgmental but making sense out of what people were saying in order to be able to do justice to them—so not only that the person might be enhanced but also the system which she represented might be enhanced.

We had some joyous moments on the Hennepin County District Court. They were very pleasurable. I found her always to be a very good person to be around. It would suggest to me that this is an individual who has been loved because she was able to love so much herself. When we talk about the character of this individual, the essence of her is love.

I did not have a chance to be with her on the Minnesota Court of Appeals, and I only visited her once after my appointment by Governor Carlson to that position. But she was again always so helpful even in her time when she knew that she was not well herself—always looking to give aid. I am so honored to be following her in that position. She has paved many roads that I don't have to pave. She has set the table for that court to

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be a cohesive court—one that works together for the system and for the people of the State of Minnesota.

And so we are all honored, and we are all better off by her having been there. We may have lost a body but we remember the spirit. The spirit of that person not only lives within those of us whom she touched, but lives through us to others.

And to the family, again searching for words, Psalms 24:7-10 reads as follows:

Lift up your heads, oh you gates and be lifted up you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty. The Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads oh you gates. Lift them up you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord almighty. He is the King of glory.